Québec Liquor Board

Annual Report

1964-1965

QUÉBEC LIQUOR BOARD

CABINET DU PRÉSIDENT

Montreal, December 23rd, 1965

HONOURABLE CLAUDE WAGNER, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
Parliament Buildings
Quebec

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Québec Liquor Board for the year ending April 30th, 1965.

The financial report prepared by the administrator will be found under separate cover.

Yours truly,

Lucien Dugas

Chairman

During the year covered by this report, the Board has disposed of numerous applications for new permits, renewals or modifications of permits and transfers. The Board also devoted part of its time in efforts to incite permit holders to respect the law.

The Board, joining its efforts with the Provincial Police and the Department of Justice, summoned permit holders to appear before the Board, against whom the number or frequency of infractions and condemnations left a doubt as to their good faith, and led one to believe that they did not give the guarantee described in paragraph "d" of article 42.

The Board readily accepted explanations offered by a permit holder who apparently seemed disposed to do his utmost in having the law respected.

The guilty ones had their permits cancelled or suspended for periods varying from seven days to a month depending on circumstances, number of condemnations and the gravity of infractions.

With the assistance of its inspectors and the Provincial Police, the Board discovered that some permit holders were not operating their licensed establishments; others were abusing of their permits, either in not posting them or in using same in rooms other than the ones designated. The Board also discovered that some permit holders had incorporated companies in their establishments without having the permits transferred. Others, such as holders of hotel, inn or dining room permits, had closed their dining-rooms and kitchens to occupy themselves with the sale of liquor in their bars. The Board also found that some licensed establishments were not properly equipped for the purpose in mind.

In each case, the Board notified the permit holders to conform with the law and to offer the public the service to which they are entitled from each one of them. Such permit holders were summoned to appear before the Board when its directives were not followed, and appropriate decisions rendered to assure the strict observance of the law.

The year 1964-1965 will be one to remember due to the strike which paralyzed the work of the Board from December 4th, 1964 to February 14th, 1965. Although the controllers were allowed in their offices, their work was practically paralyzed due to the absence of employees assigned to the custody of files and the classification of documents pertaining thereto.

Although no public hearing was possible during the strike, the controllers gave their attention to applications for banquet permits received by mail and did their utmost to dispose of incoming applications either for new permits, renewals or modifications of existing permits.

In virtue of the law, permit holders should apply for their renewals before the 10th of January in each year, and it is during the month of December that the Board receives most of the applications for renewals. During the strike the Board had only the necessary staff to sort the

mail, and incoming applications were left together in a pile. It was impossible to have them classified due to lack of personnel and much less to study them, no one being there to take out the folders or to make the required verifications.

After the strike everybody went back to work and it is amazing to note that, although two months had been lost, the majority of permits were renewed on or before April 30th. However, before renewing the permits of those who had been condemned several times during the year 1964, the Board asked for supplementary informations and, to that effect, summoned more than four hundred permit holders who were advised by the controllers themselves that they could not violate the law, notwithstanding the penalties imposed, without exposing themselves to have their permits suspended or cancelled.

Providing permit holders file their renewal applications on time, the Board believes that before April 30th next all existing permits will be either renewed or cancelled, in such a way that after the 1st of May no one will be allowed to operate an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold without having a permit for the year 1966-1967.

Statement No. 3 attached to this report indicates the number of permits in force on April 30th, 1965. If one compares this statement with the one for the preceeding year, it will be noted that the number of permits in the whole province has only been increased by 168, that is by 107 in the Quebec division and 61 in the Montreal division.

It might be interesting to note that new permits were granted to 75 hotels, 22 motels and 19 inns, a total of 106 establishments destined to provide food and lodging to travellers. The majority are modern or remodelled buildings offering both comfort and security to the travellers. This observance leads the Board to signify the precarious conditions of a large number of old establishments. One is inclined to hold the Board responsible for such conditions. However, one must not forget that the majority of these establishments offer but a minimum of comfort and security to the traveller.

It had been so easy, since more than fifteen years, to accumulate surplus and profits through the sole sale of alcohol that kitchens became neglected, as well as the appearance and condition of the buildings and furnishings. Thus, it is not surprising that travellers look for new establishments, hotels, inns or motels.

Adding to this and thanks to improved roads, it is so easy now for a traveller to return home, when within a radius of twenty to thirty miles that these same travellers once considered the best clients of these hotels and inns now rarely remain there for even a week. These establishments that cost large sums of money to their owners, although offering food and lodging, are seldom visited except by people who wish to drink. This situation is terrible. They must either be closed, thereby ruining the owners, or allowed to operate in the hopes of better days to come. The Board has endeavoured to force these poor victims of

progress to respect the law and not tolerate any abuse of any kind in their establishments. The Board has let them live.

It would also be unfair to pretend that the increase in the number of dining-rooms is responsible for the deplorable condition described above. The increased number of dining-rooms in Montreal and Quebec was a necessity. Elsewhere, the number of such establishments is very restricted. There is just the minimum necessary to accommodate the tourist who cannot arrive at the hotel for the limited time during which dining-rooms are open, in many cases from noon to 2 P.M. and from 6 to 8 P.M.

The number of taverns is the same as it was last year in the Quebec division and it has only been increased by two in the Montreal division.

For the first time, the report shows the number of banquet permits granted by the Board. To prevent the Board being unjustly accused, let us say right now that in the province of Ontario the Board granted more than 55,000 similar permits during the year 1964-1965.

There are two kinds of banquet permits. One authorizes the free service of liquor to the guests, the other to sell such. At the last session the law was modified. Previously the permit to sell could only be granted in Montreal and Quebec, providing the benefits of the banquets were intended for social, charitable and sporting organizations. To-day the Board, at its own discretion, is free to give permits everywhere in the province.

People of ordinary means can hardly afford to celebrate in hotels or other licensed establishments their weddings, engagements, anniversaries, inaugurations, etc. The interested parties rent halls and apply for a banquet permit. The applications must be in writing and accompanied by documents certifying the importance of the occasion. These are very carefully studied by the Board. The permit is never granted to the owner of the hall, but to the organizer responsible for the celebration. The police is notified and, except for very few exceptions, a good use is made of these permits.

SCHEDULE No. 1

JUDGMENTS RENDERED

from May 1st, 1964 to April 30th, 1965

	Québec District	Montréal District	Total
New permits granted	230	236	466
Reinstated permits	8	23	31
Renewals	3,035	6,136	9,171
Cancellations	131	149	280
Changes in permits	170	164	334
Suspensions	57	26	83
Transfers	292	750	1,042
Changes of location	29	70	99
Applications refused	532	435	967
Modifications refused	202	338	540
Interdictions refused	14	—	14
Decisions when no cause of suspension is shown against a permit owner summoned before the Board	146	268	414
Others	42	235	277
Judgments rendered	4,888	8,830	13,718

SCHEDULE No. 2

PUBLIC HEARINGS

from May 1st, 1964 to April 30th, 1965

PLACES	DATE	Number of days	TOTAL	Number of cases	TOTAL
Quebec	May 5, 6, 1964	2	2	101	101
Montreal	May 14, 15, 1964	2	4	76	177
Rouyn	May 20, 21, 1964	2	6	33	210
Montreal	May 22, 1964	1	7	1	211
Hull	May 26, 1964	1	8	23	234
Montreal	May 27, 29, 1964	2	10	86	320
Quebec	June 16, 17, 1964	2	12	24	344
Montreal	August 4, 5, 6, 7, 1964	4	16	106	450
Quebec	August 25, 26, 27, 1964	3	19	57	507
Sherbrooke	September 1, 1964	1	20	9	516
Montreal	October 14, 15, 16, 1964	3	23	78	594
Quebec	November 3, 4, 5, 1964	3	26	55	649
Montreal	November 17, 18, 19, 20, 1964	4	30	77	726
Montreal	December 3, 1964	1	31	1	727
Montreal	March 16, 17, 18, 19, 1965	4	35	83	810
Montreal	April 5, 6, 7, 1965	3	38	26	836
Quebec	April 14, 1965	1	39	3	839
Montreal	April 27, 28, 29, 1965	3	42	203	1,042

SCHEDULE No. 3

ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER PERMIT

ON APRIL 30th, 1965

	Québec District	Montréal District	Total
Permits renewed	3,035	6,136	9,171
Permits continued — Not yet renewed on 30-4-65 and extended in virtue of section No. 4 of the Bill 34	18	12	30
Permits reinstated	8	14	22
Renewal under consideration	—	—	—
	3,061	6,162	9,223
Cancelled permits	48	149	197
	3,013	6,013	9,026
New permits	230	236	466
Total on April 30, 1965	3,243	6,249	9,492
Total on April 30, 1964	3,136	6,188	9,324
Increase during the year	107	61	168

SCHEDULE No. 4

ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER PERMIT

in force on April 30, 1965

CLASSES	Québec District		Montréal District	
	Cities	Counties	Cities	Counties
Hotels	12	653	59	877
Resorts	–	84	–	25
Motels	2	87	16	77
Inns	–	72	2	77
Dining rooms (1)	91	132	383	131
Restaurants	22	30	63	37
Cabarets	–	3	3	–
Taverns	57	66	381	85
Groceries	424	1,248	2,111	1,391
Clubs	23	138	124	234
Race-tracks	–	–	2	–
Hunting & fishing lodges	–	11	–	28
Railway cars	–	–	52	–
Trading posts	–	1	–	–
Boats	2	4	3	–
Brewers	–	1	6	3
Warehouses	3	77	1	69
Distillers	–	–	7	2
	636	2,607	3,213	3,036

(1) Authorized to give performances (cabarets)

SCHEDULE No. 5

BANQUET PERMIT
1964-1965

Kind of permit	Québec District	Montréal District
To sell	62	1,126
To serve	3,125	11,876
	3,197	13,002
Occasion		
Mariage or anniversary	1,974	6,071
Other	1,223	6,931
	3,197	13,002